



FACULTY AND STAFF ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

1985-86 # 4

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FROM THE EDITOR

Our President advised against the publication of a December Newsletter since he said no one would read it. (True, I don't think you can get it on the newsstands in Cuba, probably not even in Hawaii.) And if we did one, he said we couldn't put anything important in it.

But I couldn't resist an anniversary edition of the first Newsletter I remember putting out ten years ago, back when faculty's regular load was ten courses, coordinators received a two course release, we had the progressive modular instructional system, we lived in church basements and above donut shops and nightclubs, we kept a scoreboard of spousal switchings in our 'office area', we were a professional association - not yet having undertaken our first negotiations with the Board, we were the lowest paid faculty in the province (my, how things have improved) and my roommate - our first Negotiations Chair - was not yet quite crazy. (If some of you newer employees wonder what this ranting is all about, ask some of the old timers.) 'Tis a meager way to celebrate ten years, but what are holidays for?

We even have the same cartoon on the cover - it may become a collector's item if my old Vancouver house mate ever sees it and sues me for copyright violation!

Have a Good Holidays.

Paul Herman

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Area Meetings

As we move towards negotiations, Bob Smith, myself, and Virginia Cook, are holding lunch meetings with all faculty and staff groups within the college. Thus far we have met with Student Services and C.E. in Abby; Business office, Division of Instruction, and Student Services in Chilliwack; a Business Office, Facilities, and Courier staff in Abby. We hold the meetings at lunchtime on Tuesdays, and listen to a variety of concerns about contract matters, working conditions, and the FSA.

The meetings thus far have been extremely informative, and we will be following up a number of ideas discussed during these sessions. In particular, we will be organizing a college wide, staff only meeting for some time in January, to discuss ways of improving staff participation, and communication, in the FSA. Watch for an announcement early in the new year.

Those groups who have not yet had meetings will be contacted over the next couple of months. Lunch meetings, or meetings at other

appropriate times, will be organized with the help of the shop stewards.

Negotiations

Virginia Cook and I gave the college board a letter requesting that negotiations begin in January. We anticipate that a number of serious issues will be at the table this year, not the least of which will be our demand for a reasonable wage increase in recognition of the great increases in productivity that faculty and staff have created in the past few years. Virginia is still collecting material for negotiations, and is still welcoming additions to the contract committee. Watch for important contract meetings in the new year.

Provincial Union

C-IEA presidents, in a meeting held November 29-30, voted to recommend the provincial union option to their members. The CUPE option and the status quo were both defeated. There was considerable commitment, among a majority of presidents, to C-IEA moving towards a provincial union which would act and speak with greater unity on matters of concern to the college system and its employees. A provincial union would provide a central defense fund, and more staff support for all locals, although certifications would continue to be held by the locals.

I doubt if the FSA would notice any dramatic changes in our day to day

operations if we were to join a provincial union. We would continue to bargain locally; we could continue to be a joint faculty and staff union, indeed, staff will be invited to join the provincial union along with faculty; and, we would continue to solve our own problems, albeit with greater support available from C-IEA.

As soon as the New Year begins, the FSA will provide a very detailed description of both the provincial union and CUPE options, together with opportunities for faculty and staff to ask questions and hear additional information from people who are close to this issue. Once again, let me assure you that there will be ample opportunity for us to collectively consider our options before taking a vote, probably in March or April, 1986.

Watch for my column in the January newsletter. I will use that opportunity to describe my own reaction to and analysis of this issue, as one who has been close to the debate for some years. Other FSA members should also avail themselves of space in the newsletter to write letters and articles during the next couple of months.

Copyright!!!

The Copyright Committee - Dick Bate, K. Busswood, B. Harris - has met a couple of times with the following results:

The old "declaration", appearing on xerox requisition forms, will be

replaced by the following statement as of January 1, 1986:

In requesting the duplication of this material, I acknowledge that Fraser Valley College has informed me of the applicability of the Copyright Act of Canada.

In addition, the appended policy proposal will go to the CAC for consideration and amendment. Once a policy is in place, then the xerox declaration will be amended to read:

In requesting the duplication of this material, I acknowledge that Fraser Valley College has informed me of College Policy regarding copyright and the applicability of the Copyright Act of Canada.

You may feel that the revised declaration is relatively toothless, and that may be so; however, as mentioned in a previous column, the time has come for us to change our reproductive habits, so to speak. We will continue to lobby the government and the publishing industry for regulations which are appropriate for the educational "industry". We will continue, as well, to seek the best advice on this issue so as to try and create some accommodation between our needs as educators, and the need of artists and intellectuals to receive proper payment for their work.

The new declaration is symbolic of the fact that both management and the FSA see this problem as a college problem, and not simply an issue for individual instructors.

We will continue to work in this area, and will report to you as the work proceeds.

President's PD Trip To Cuba

Many FSA members are under the mistaken impression that Cheryl and I are taking a vacation in CUBA. Nothing could be farther from the truth. I have been invited by the International Communist Conspiracy To Subvert Post-Secondary Institution Faculty and Staff Associations (Canadian Branch) (ICCTSPSIFSA (CB)) to attend their decennial conference in Veradero, Cuba. In as much as I am using FSA funds to pay for our trip, I feel compelled to reassure you that there will not be a moment relaxation.

A brief summary of the program follows:

Day 1: Orientation - a brief introduction to the pedagogy of revolutionary attitudes among recalcitrant faculty and staff. Evening - a 4 hour speech of welcome by Raul Castro (cassette copies will be made available).

Day 2: Selective assassination - creative response to cabinet appointed college boards. Evening - address by Larry Blake (a well known Albanian double agent) on "the role of the futurist during the Socialist transition".

Day 3: Co-Management through sex - blackmail - a how-to seminar on the investigation, documentation, and display of research materials

appropriate to the radical liberalization of management attitudes towards workers' control. Included will be a seminar on the use of the latest micro video and audio technology (with special technical assistance from RCMP 'Top Hat' double agents). Evening - Larry Blake will speak, briefly, on "the death of the futurist once communism is achieved".

Day 4: A role-playing workshop on "creating a president-for-life": the need for union leadership to transcend mere usefulness. Evening - Comrade Jack Munro, from the International Workers Association, will give a concert featuring his great Canadian hit "Nobody Knows the Trouble I Seen". Accompaniment will be provided by the Art Kube Trio.

Day 5: Work Camps/Exile/Community Mental Health - techniques for the gentle handling of those who are not in complete agreement with their president at all times. Evening - this will be a free evening for the practice of socialist intercourse.

Day 6: The Anonymous Bomb Threat/Techniques in Terror - How to Negotiate from strength. Evening - Comrade John Shular will demonstrate a variety of ways to convert campus grounds to the useful production of plantation crops, using student labour. Slides will be shown.

Day 7: The Entrepreneur under Socialism - the creative use of release time. A presentation by Comrade Busswood from British

Columbia. Evening - "Perspectives: The Promulgation of Radical Humanism through doublespeak" - a presentation on the use of community radio by Comrade Barry Moore from Canada.

Days 8 through 14: An extended workshop on cutting sugar cane.

You can all see that, with few exceptions, there will be very little fun on this trip. I'm even giving a paper. So I don't want to hear any more carping and whining about my going on holiday.

Merry Christmas to you all.

Things will be much different when I get back!

Kevin Busswood

[Editor's Note: We have sent a copy of Comrade Busswood's column to the Castro brothers. In gratitude, they have promised not to hold a workshop on coup d'etats while your Leader is out of country.]

From the Faculty Vice-President

MY 5 CENTS WORTH

Faculty Comings and Goings

In the last issue I reported that Jack McLaren had gone to Toronto on spec, and I please not to advise that Jack has found a job

teaching life skills in T.O. Evidently his wife, Sylvia, who also taught at the College, is the staff development office for Sunnybrook Hospital.

Jo-Ann Archibald, former NITEP co-ordinator working out of the Chilliwack Campus has moved on to UBC in a similar capacity. Her replacement at FVC is Laverne Adams. Laverne taught school in Mackenzie, B.C. (look it up in your atlas, boys and girls), before coming to the College. Another new faculty member in this area of college programming is Kaui Keliipio who is running the pre-NITEP program. Kaui was previously involved with Native Indian education programs at Mt. Currie and in Vancouver. Both Laverne and Kaui are based in Chilliwack.

The Communications area has two new faculty as well. Maureen Shaw and Dan Murphy both have Type C contracts, and are based on the Abbotsford Campus. Maureen was a session instructor at Kwantlen for several years. Dan has taught in the field of graphic communications and currently runs a small graphic design company.

Rose Morrison-Ives is the new co-ordinator of our Agriculture Program, and came to FVC from Manitoba. One suspects that Rose will be a very busy individual over the next few years as the College moves heavily into agricultural programmes. Let me be the first in print to note that Rose, in co-ordinating agriculture, will undoubtedly be outstanding in her

field. (It's a tired old joke, but I couldn't restrain myself.)

More next issue.

Cold Snap Delays Muskrat Production

The number of orders received for FVC hand-painted ditch muskrats has exceeded our wildest expectations, and we will send both of them out as soon as we can. Rumour has it that Kevin Busswood and a number of faculty who are not teaching a ninth course have been out on the prairie cutting yarrow root in their spare time. Unfortunately, with the ditches frozen throughout the Valley in late November, our workers have been unable to find a model for the FVC fund-raising mascot. It is beginning to appear that the success of this educational venture, like many others in the province, is clearly dependent on a significant change in climate.

However, in the spirit of co-operation that has come to characterize College-FSA relations, it was reported that a member of the Management Team volunteered his pet ferret as a substitute. Since, in our minds, a tame ferret is not as attractive as a wild muskrat, we intend to take the offer to negotiations in the Spring. Oh, well, Virginia, it's just one more fuzzy issue to deal with.

On the Education Labour Front

In a recent Seattle P-I there was a wonderful item reporting on the

Method by which University of Washington faculty raises will be allocated for next year. Evidently the state has set aside some \$11 million for salary increases, but the money will be given only to profs who are vulnerable to being snatched away from the UofW by better-paying schools. As the article notes: "raises will be doled out according to market conditions in various fields. Thus, 55 percent of engineering, law and clinical medicine professors will get raises, while only 20 percent of the librarianship faculty will be rewarded.

Within academic departments, each faculty member will be reviewed according to how "vulnerable" he or she is to being lured away. The higher your vulnerability, the more money you can expect to receive.

The scheme raises a number of interesting paradoxes in my mind. All my life I've tried to avoid being vulnerable. Now I find out it's a good thing. All my life I've thought that seniority and performance might bring some kind of reward. Now I find out they don't count a whit. Being a good, loyal librarian doesn't measure up in a vulnerability index. And what about workload and productivity, you might well ask? Surely if one works harder than anyone else and cranks out more students, they should get some reward. Guess again, protestant colleagues.

In fact, under the UofW scheme, you could be a senior, proficient, and hard-working prof and still not get

a raise because you are teaching in the wrong discipline. Thank goodness such discrimination doesn't exist in the B.C. College system. Here, at least, we are sure that senior, proficient, and hard-working instructors in all disciplines have an equal chance of not getting a raise.

Happy New Year

Enjoy Christmas this year. That's a directive, not a warm and friendly wish. According to a recent story in the Globe and Mail, the New Year doesn't hold any great promises for consumers in Canada. Midland Doherty, the Toronto investment firm, has predicted a "tax onslaught" in January as a result mainly of the recent federal budget. According to the firm, some \$3.5 billion dollars will be diverted from our paycheques into federal coffers, and the impact will be seen in higher tax deductions and lower take-home pay early in the new year. You all have probably noticed the annual increase in federal tax on your payslips in July. Well, keep your eyes on your payslips for January. And you thought for a moment we would benefit from reductions in the inflation rate? Then again, on the bright side, we may not make enough to feel the impact of de-indexed exemptions. So there may be reason to rejoice after all.

Mike Grenby recently calculated that it will take the average B.C. worker about 7 weeks on the job to pay their 1985 income taxes. If

taxes go even higher in the new year, we will clearly come to realized just how appropriate the term civil servant really is

And on a happier note:

Best wishes for a warm and happy holiday break. May your marking go well, your students go away, and your Director love you even more in the New Year.

Doug Nicol

VICE-PRESIDENT'S REPORT FROM COLLEGE ADVISORY COUNCIL

The C.A.C. meeting of November 13 failed to meet the quorum of 8 members again. The Council voted to establish quorum at 7 for this meeting, and business was conducted as usual. The C.A.C. presently has three vacancies (two student reps and an East Campus Staff rep), so we require an almost 80% turnout of elected members to make quorum. George McGuire is going to raise the issues of quorum and vacancies at the next E.P.C. meeting.

(Rumour has it that the C.A.C. is seen to be one of the most boring committees at the college, which may partially explain the lack of participation. In my opinion, it's only boring if you haven't done your homework. Being lost engenders boredom - a truism from classroom experience. But if you're up-to-date, you find yourself touching base with almost every aspect of college life; and while that may not be particularly exciting, it is anything but boring.)

Chair Report...George attended his first E.P.C. breakfast meeting, and reported generally on the issues before the C.A.C. (He didn't tell us what was on the menu, but I suspect it wasn't dry toast and gruel.)

Principal's Report...Barry mentioned a number of items that are either before the Board at the moment, or will be in the near future. Highlights included:

- * MLA's Schroeder, Ritchie, and Pelton are coming to the next Board meeting.
- * Retirement policy; Barry said that neither the Board nor the FSA want FVC to be the test case on this matter. Great expense is involved. The Board will decide at its next meeting.

- * The agriculture program will be "mainly centered in Chilliwack". (I didn't ask Barry what "mainly" meant, but perhaps I should have. A recent article in the Valley Times noted that the District of Abbotsford wants the college to reconsider its decision to base the program in Chilliwack.) Barry noted that the Ministry has confirmed FVC's provincial mandate for this program. Someone sees us as being "the Olds of British Columbia." I guess that's better than being the Edsel of the Fraser Valley, a distinct possibility for Chilliwack if ag goes to Abbotsford.)
- * B.C.I.T. has been fighting to keep their agriculture programs that are destined to come our way, but to no avail apparently. (For some reason I was reminded of that WWII movie, "Run Silent, Run Deep," where an American submarine torpedoes a Japanese sub, the American sailors cheer, and then fall silent as they consider the fate of their colleagues in the sinking boat.)
- * Proposals for Chilliwack facilities will go to the Ministry in about 4-5 months, and will include not only provisions for agriculture but for programs presently at Portage Avenue as well.
- * Barry reported that a disclaimer regarding copyright will reappear by December 1st. That disclaimer may be amended by the current joint committee (Betty Harris, Kevin Busswood, and Dick Bate) looking into the copyright issue, but Barry said he is under strong pressure from the Board to have something in place soon.

(A memo dated 85 11 13 on the committee's work so far was sent from Dick Bate's office to all faculty and staff. Among the words were the following: ...please be advised that you should be taking steps to acquire clearance for copyrighted materials you intend to use in your role as an instructor at FVC." Sending permission letters to publishers was the only step noted in the memo. The committee also made mention of form letters attached for our convenience. These weren't attached to the memos received in Chilliwack mail boxes, but the forms are available from the Faculty Assistant if you need them.)

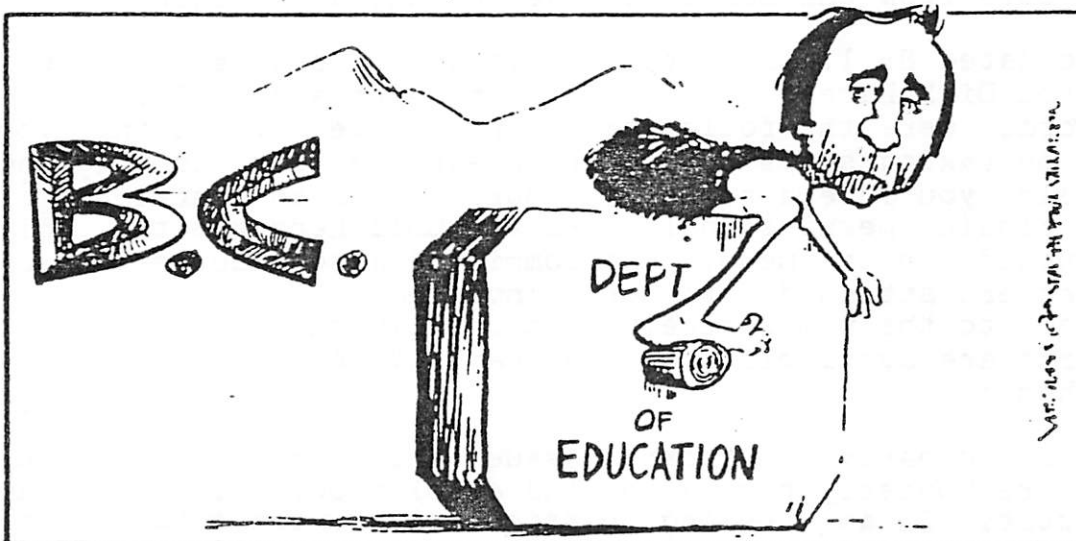
(This is clearly a thorny issue and I think some of our people are honestly trying to find a solution. Yet, as an instructor, I am feeling particularly uncomfortable and equally unguided at this stage of the process. Then again, I may be prematurely concerned.) I did a quick count of the handouts I use in my Geography 102 course, most of which are single pages of diagrams, graphs, flow charts, maps, and data sets that have been gleaned from many different texts and journals over the past decade. In total, I would need to send out 54 letters to secure copyright for this one course. Perhaps I need a secretary or the college needs a copyright clearance officer?)

Old, New, and other Business...The C.A.C. dealt with a variety of issues arising from the Admissions and Standards Committee, many of which were matters of housekeeping.

Policy 350.03 - covering Incomplete grades - has been modified to include a procedure for issuing I grades in cases where academic misconduct is under investigation. The C.A.C. now feels that the new procedure is really policy, and is rewriting the policy statement to reflect that difference. (I wonder if Larry Blake might be able to cast some light on this discussion? Sorry, that's a very old joke.) As a result of this discussion, the C.A.C. feels that a review of policies and procedures related to academic misconduct is in order, and will take steps to initiate that review.

We adjourned at 15:45, 15 minutes early.

Doug Nicol.



From the Contract Chair

[Editor's Note: The following info was obtained from Virginia Cooke and written up by me. Please excuse the lack of graceful style and literary allusions.]

Negotiations will begin soon, and we seem to be prepared for them.

Since the last Newsletter, the Contract Committee has received a lot of information for negotiations, and there there have been a lot of very welcome volunteers to work on committees. The Contract Committee now includes Anne Knowlan, Cheryl Dahl, Craig Mick, Mary Saunders, Dale Demeules, and Garnet Brown.

The Negotiation Committee now includes Virginia Cooke, Doug Hudson, Brian Talarico. Several staff have volunteered, but exact arrangements are still being made.

The College Board has been notified that we want to begin negotiations in late January. Peter Saunders will chair the Board's negotiations committee.

The Contract Committee will meet the week of December 18 to assign further tasks.

C-IEA will hold some workshops for us in January, including simulated negotiations.

Again, the information and volunteers are greatly appreciated.

STOCKING STUFFERS

Ah, Christmas and conscience sometimes make such uncomfortable companions. Do you buy that toy on sale at Canadian Tire, or support the two year strike by workers at the Prince George Canadian Tire? (Hey, maybe we can make the Sun by having an injunction slapped on the Newsletter.)

Well, we've compiled a list of gifts for you to reconcile materialist indulgences and conscience:

Step into the breach: support the book that changed Socred policy on government support for publishing: The New Reality: The Politics of Restraint in British Columbia, \$4.95, New Star.

A battlefield account of one front in the war against educational cutbacks and centralization: School Wars: The Assault on B.C. Education, by Province columnist Crawford Kilian, \$4.95, New Star.

Gifts that give all year:

New Directions magazine, lots of good articles on Socred screwups and struggles against them: \$18 for nine issues, 5594 Mackenzie St., Vancouver V6N 1H2.

Next Generation, a newspaper for conscientious youth, \$10, 2460E. 23rd Ave., Vancouver V5R 1A2.

Tools for Peace calendar with photos of life and times in Nicaragua: donations above \$15 will receive an income tax receipt, Coalition for Aid to Nicaragua, 2524 Cypress St., Vancouver, B.C. V6J 3N2.

College Cuisine cookbook, proceeds to Salvation Army Christmas Fund, available at FVC Bookstores.

Give this one to a teacher who is tempted to badmouth the government: The Nielsen Gag ensures a Christmas free of horror stories about education in British Columbia.

Doze Alarm fits comfortably behind your ear, powered by a tiny, long-life mercury cell, it sounds when your head begins to nod or tilt forward. At all better educational supply houses, \$15.99.



There are those gifts that no one likes to get - you get the goodies free anyway - but that no progressive person dares grumble out loud about receiving:

Co-op Radio membership along with one year subscription to Radiowaves containing program listings and articles, \$25, phone 684-8494.

Membership in KCTS (PBS Seattle): \$30 individual, \$60 family.

And then there's a special gift from faculty to students (although now you'll have to wait until next Finals to give it): The Prisoners' Dilemma Game (sometimes known as The Tragedy of the Commons Game). Propose to your students that they take their Final for your course during the last week of classes instead of during the Final Exam period. The suckers will probably fall for it, and they get what they deserve for being such fools: less instruction, conflict with other courses and assignments, and less time to prepare for your Final. Your bonus is an extra week of holiday in New York, Hawaii, or wherever. The only risk involved is that other faculty members find out and shoot you as a free rider. If you don't quite understand how the game works, inquire amongst some faculty members you didn't see around during the Final Exam period.

Prints and Christmas cards done by the Fine Arts students in Abbotsford. Their work is first rate. Their current show runs until the 17th of December - get out and see it, and buy some quality artistic goodies for your friends and relatives.

A copy of the Purely Random House Dictionary of Socredese, with thousands of entries, including concise definitions of terms like educational quality, increase, decrease, face lift, responsible management, innovative, first-class facilities, elected board, supertech, statistical validity,

mean and mean, user pay, flexibility, circus.

A boxed set of 40 copyright permission letters, in soft colours, embossed with simulated gold RB monogram in the top right corner, complete with gummed envelopes, self-sticking labels and photocopied list of well-known educational publishers.

Deluxe high-tech three-dimensional electronic edition of Waters Brother's new game, Build A Provincial Union, with interlocking Lego-like pieces used to construct realistic models of CFF, C-IEA, BCGEU, CUPE, and the Rock and Tunnel Workers of America. The game pieces, actually small integrated circuits, are awarded to players on the basis of a dice throw, and their correct arrangement lights up the entire board and gives the winner control of all instructors. Not sold to persons over the age of 65. Not available in all parts of the province. Batteries not included.

Leather-bound, hip-pocket version of the Administrator's Playbook, modeled on the famous National Football League volume with similar name. Contains detailed diagrams and descriptions of most major plays, including the end run, the play-action fake, the quarterback sneak, the down-and-out, and the Hail Mary pass. Major penalties, such as illegal procedure, offside, encroachment, blocking from the rear, and illegal use of the hands, are detailed in the Appendix. Profusely illustrated with glossy

photographs of famous players, team slogans, cheerleaders, and marching bands. Available by mail only, in plain brown wrapper. Allow 3 months for delivery and enclose a recent paycheque to cover postage and handling.

Give a Gift to EXPO, your favourite Sacred politician, and your fellow taxpayers. Help recycle College Professional Development money back to the government. Raid your PD Allocations Fund for money to attend the EXPO EDUCATION EXTRAVAGANZA, just \$100 per day (less if you can sucker more of your colleagues into attending)!



COLLEGE PENSION PLAN REPORT

With recent changes to our Pension Plans, the editor of the FSA Newsletter felt it might be a good idea to print a general review of our pension scheme.

Fraser Valley College is involved in two Pension Plans both administered by the Superannuation Commission. In this article, I will deal with the College Pension Act which covers College faculty. The Municipal Superannuation Act (staff pension) will be dealt with in a future newsletter.

All faculty earning over \$1,950.00 per month contribute 7% of their salary, less the 1985 C.P.P. offset of \$29.25, to the College Pension Plan. This amount is matched by the employer and is sent to the Superannuation Commission in Victoria each month. Faculty can also make voluntary contributions in addition to the 7%. These voluntary contributions may be used to increase the amount of pension payable on retirement or can be refunded upon termination of employment. The employer does not match the voluntary contributions and the interest accrued is minimal (6%). Therefore, a faculty member should seriously consider other investment options before contemplating voluntary contributions.

There has been some confusion over when, or if, employee contributions become locked into the Plan. An employee in the College Pension Plan has the option of taking a refund of contributions, including interest, at any time and can take a refund in lieu of a superannuation allowance at the date of retirement. However, the refund does not include the employer's share of contributions. So, for those of you who may have been concerned, your contributions are not automatically locked in at any time.

The effect of leaves without pay is another area that is often misunderstood. A faculty member who has been granted a leave of absence without salary can continue to contribute to the Pension Plan. Approval must first be obtained from the Superannuation Commissioner (I write for approval on your behalf) and the employee must pay both the employee and employer contributions for the leave period. In future, should a faculty member resign and take a refund, the amount paid by the employee for the employer during a leave period will not be included in the refund.

The last issue I will address in this article is at what age an employee can retire and still receive a pension. Normally, an employee begins retirement under the College Plan at the end of August after reaching age 65. If you turn 65 in January, 1986, normal retirement is August 31, 1986. Your first pension cheque is payable on October 1, 1986.

College Pension Plan Report (Contd.)

An employee can, however, retire before age 65 and still receive a pension under the following circumstances:

1. After completing 35 years of service and attaining age 55 (full pension).
2. After completing 10 years of service and attaining age 60 (full pension).
3. After completing 10 years but less than 35 years of service and attaining age 55 (pension reduced 5% per year from age 55 to 60).
4. After completing less than 10 years of service and attaining age 60 (pension reduced 5% for each year under 10 years).

This has been a brief review of the Pension Plan. If you have any questions on the Plan, please call me at local 205.

Barry Bompas
Personnel Officer

From BCSTA REPORT

**Science Teachers
Share Experiences**

Elementary teachers will be encouraged to share classroom science teaching experience via a network and newsletter to be initiated this fall by a group concerned about science in B.C. schools, according to Barbara Moon, chairperson of the Association for the Promotion and Advancement of Science Education (APASE).

"we are looking for practical, teacher-initiated projects or ideas which have proved successful in the classroom and are relevant to the existing science curriculum objectives. Our newsletter will be a forum for those ideas and regional workshops will be offered to encourage this kind of sharing," said Moon.

The general aims of APASE are to further science education at all levels in B.C., but their immediate goal is to improve the quality and quantity of science taught in the elementary classroom today. Their belief that teachers helping teachers is the best way to accomplish this prompted their decision to sponsor such a project.

APASE is a non-profit society of teachers and others with a vested interest in science education and was recently awarded a federal government grant of \$20,000 through the Public Awareness Program for Science and Technology to assist them in launching this project.

For further information, contact the Association for the Promotion and Advancement of Science Education, through Barbara Moon, Biology instructor at Fraser Valley College.

From Vancouver Sun, December 9,
1985

END TO TEACHERS FEARED AT COLLEGE

TERRACE - Students and instructors here are convinced that the end of live education - a teacher in a classroom - at Northwest Community College may be in the offing.

At a meeting Saturday, the college board voted unanimously to delete a clause in its statement of philosophy that says quality education means teacher-student contact.

Despite a dozen presentations from members of the community who tried to persuade the board to keep the clause, the board said that the change was necessary for expansion.

. . . the paragraph that describes the delivery systems used by the school [reads] "The college is concerned not only with cost-effectiveness but also with the quality of education, particularly as quality is related to student-instructor contacts." The board has deleted the last nine words.

"It's a clear indication that, because they have removed the words, they intend to remove the reality of them," said George Stanley, English instructor and president of the Academic Workers Union.

But Val George, principal of the college, denied at the meeting that the board or administration intends to replace full-time academic instructors with part-timers and correspondence courses.

"We must look at all methodology," he told the audience. "There are a lot of people you can't get to with live programming. We should be looking at all means of instruction." . . .

"We can give people education when they want it," he said. "I don't know why the academic instructors are so worried. We have never indicated that these programs will replace them."

However, a recently released preliminary budget slashed the academic department's funds by 20 per cent for next year.

The department will lose \$100,000 if the budget is approved.

. . Stanley said, "That cut is 2 1/2 jobs." There are now nine instructors in the department.

Stanley said that after the preliminary cut was announced, the academic staff refused to participate in a task force designed to recommend next year's academic courses.

"We are not interested in working out ways to replace the faculty," he said.

School Board Elections A Win For Education?

According to a Vancouver Sun story, November 20, "The provincial education ministry should learn a lesson from the beating it took in last week's school board elections, B.C. Teachers' Federation president Pat Clarke said...

"More than a dozen districts elected candidates who are firmly 'pro-education,' Clarke said. . . 'Many of them. . . campaigned on a pledge to support budgets that reflect the real needs of their school districts.'

"The government should take the hint from the elections and from recent public opinion surveys that British Columbians feel restraint has been applied too severely to education," Clarke said. . .

"Castlegar, Delta, Kelowna, Langley, Nelson, New Westminster, Prince Rupert, Richmond, Shuswap, Sunshine Coast, Vernon and Victoria school districts were among those Clarke said showed 'positive' political shifts. . .

"The most 'dramatic' shifts in power were in Kelowna, Delta and Victoria, said Wes Knapp, a BCTF staff member who has been analyzing the election results.

"In Kelowna, Knapp said the board chairman and two incumbent trustees were replaced by candidates who actively opposed the education ministry's budget cuts."

In several Fraser Valley and Lower Mainland districts, candidates with proclaimed NDP affiliations were elected. In Burnaby, the top five of the seven elected trustees (and fifteen running) acknowledged NDP affiliations. One of three elected (and six running) did so in Langley. Running as Civic New Democrats in Richmond, two candidates were elected in the race for seven seats.

Results are not yet in from Comox.

For our own region, I consulted various College sources about election results.

Chilliwack elected at least three trustees known to consort with other than the current governing party in B.C. Among those elected are one College instructor, the spouse of an instructor, and the former Chair of the College Board.

It appears there are at least four 'pro-education' trustees.

In the Hope area, two candidates were acclaimed and a new trustee replaced retiring Tom Davis. The son of a College employee was defeated.

In the Abbotsford area, women (two) were elected for the first time. According to my sources, one of these women has a commitment to Special Education and French Immersion and may be a good addition to the Board. However, a defeated incumbent may have been the best of the lot, aside from a College instructor who ran but was defeated.

In the Mission area, well known College supporter Sophie Weremchuk was returned, and two middle of the road candidates defeated more right wing aspirants.

It must be (relatively) nice to live in Chilliwack. Wouldn't it be nice if School Board appointees still sat on the College Board.

A letter to the Vancouver Sun,
December 4:

**Premier's
political lesson
teaches trickery
and bluff**

Premier Bill Bennett's "lesson politics" to Okanagan College students seems to be that trickery and bluff and scapegoating are acceptable behaviour for a political leader in B.C.

Bennett's actions in using the powers of his office to embarrass a few concerned students tell us all we need to know about his good faith.

His claim that "the quality of education in B.C. has improved despite cutbacks due to restraint" makes me wonder what Bennett can possibly think the word "improve" means. If a system of fewer programs and services, reduced access, inadequate supplies, greater centralization, minimal parent and teacher involvement, a widespread anger and demoralization is an "improved" system, then words mean anything.

Bennett's suggestion that Okanagan College students blame tuition fee increases on a faculty salary increase is yet another example of his politics of cynicism. In the three years since 1982-83, Okanagan College faculty have received a total increase of 8.4 per cent. Of this, 1.2 per cent was classified by the compensation stabilization commissioner as a special productivity increase and the balance was the result of a formula negotiated with the college as a means of improving its historically low salary structure. Faculty salaries at Okanagan are still well below the mean of those at other colleges.

During this same three-year period (when inflation has been about 13 per cent) the province has reduced its operating grants to Okanagan College by \$97,000 and the college has increased its tuition fees by 148 per cent to \$770 for an academic year.

And since 1982/83 the provincial government has cut its total expenditure on post-secondary student aid from \$33 million to \$4.6 million. The latter figure

includes the very limited loan remission program that the government recently announced.

Bennett's continued attempts to set groups against one another may be good politics in B.C., but let's not kid ourselves that his actions are good for education.

John Waters
President, C-IEA

AN INTERVIEW WITH LORNE NICOLSON

Editor's note: Lorne Nicolson is the N.D.P. Debate Leader for Universities, Science and Technology in the Provincial Legislature. This interview is from Education Network, Vol. 1, No. 3, September 1985.

Q. Do you think that the Social Credit government has a master plan for the B.C. Universities?

A. No, not in any educational sense. They have no financial commitment to universities. B.C. is the only province where the universities are entirely financed by federal funds and student fees. There's a massive uncertainty in education at all levels - and the government will be announcing, I predict, a new set of financial goalposts in the next few months.

Q. What makes you think the Socreds have no educational plan for the universities?

A. Because B.C. has the lowest participation rate in Canada - only 101 of every 1,000 of our young people go on to university - 25% below the national average. About 7% of grade 12 graduates outside Vancouver and Victoria attend university - and only 16% of those from Victoria and Vancouver do. We have the worst student assistance program anywhere in Canada. A British Columbia B.A. graduating after four years on B.C. Student Assistance Plan could owe \$22,000 - while an Ontario student in comparable circumstances would owe just \$5,000. Socreds just don't accept that education is an investment for the future. Because

they do not understand that basic reality, all sectors of education - schools, colleges, and universities - suffer. Socred mismanagement has driven the participation rate in B.C. to the lowest in Canada in just 17 years.

Q. But the N.D.P. was government for part of that time, and some faculty spokespeople have charged that the N.D.P. were just as bad as the Socreds.

A. The charge is unfounded. Participation rates went up under our government - particularly for students outside Vancouver and Victoria. Our government was not complacent about our achievements in education - you can always do more - but a decade later, I'm proud of what we did in three years. Our government was always very careful about the provincial government's increasing involvement in direct budget allocation. The government should not direct research topics. Dr. Haering did not develop the Moli battery because he was directed to do battery research. If we attract and retain first-rate faculty we will see unanticipated payoffs a decade from now. Direct government involvement in budget allocation is anathema to the freedom to pursue diverse academic directions.

Q. Well, let me ask you this. What do you perceive as the major requirements of universities and how would your party act to meet them?

A. I've already mentioned academic freedom. Last spring, Bob Skelly tabled a detailed short-term program of action for the Legislature. The commitments we made on universities were:

1. To make funding available to the Universities Council to maintain services at 1984 levels recognizing inflation;
2. To use federal funds received earmarked for Education under the Established Programs Finance Arrangements for education;
3. To fully pass along the 7.5% increase in federal funding to education;
4. To re-open David Thompson University Centre as soon as possible.

More detailed and long-term policy is being developed in provincial and regional discussions within the N.D.P. When the government fails to maintain stabilities and threatens academic freedom, our top faculty are lured away. We have lost Pres. George Pedersen from U.B.C. Engineering Dean Len Bruton and History Professor Chad Gaffield have both left UVic.

Dr. Thomas Salisbury from Purdue - a distinguished Canadian mathematician - declined an appointment in UVic's Department of Mathematics because of the "adverse political climate in higher education in B.C."

Faculty across North America unfortunately 'got the message' about Social Credit.

Q. But Dr. McGeer says that it is healthy and a mark of excellence that our faculty would be in demand...

A. There are about 140 faculty at our three universities who are considering other job offers. That's far more than usual, and we are not replacing those lost. Many of these are researchers who have been awarded grants of \$25,000 or more. As they leave there could be a net loss to the economy of over \$3 million - to say nothing of the lost opportunities for our youth.

Q. How would the N.D.P. tackle these problems?

A. We believe that the province should aim to improve our participation rate from the present level (the worst in Canada) to at least the national average over five years. I estimate that if we were at that rate today there would be another 24,000 young people at our colleges, institutes and universities. To meet this target, the community colleges would have to be re-empowered to offer a comprehensive range of university transfer, continuing education and vocational programs. But it's precious little use offering programs if the people cannot afford to attend! There would, therefore, have to be a drastic re-structuring of the B.C. Student Assistance Plan. We would restore the grant program, and review the maximum amount of the award annually and adjust regularly for inflation.

We would promote the participation of non-metropolitan students by developing a 'comprehensive strategy of decentralization of program delivery. If attendance at an urban centre was necessary, there would have to be a special program of boarding and travel assistance.

Finally, there are groups who have been traditionally disadvantaged: women, single parents, mature students, cultural minorities, Native people, the handicapped and the disabled. Ensuring access should involve consultations with the education community and representatives of various groups.
